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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/963,514

09/27/2001

Caroline Blaizot

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08/24/2005

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EXAMINER

SINGH, DALZID E

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2633

DATE MAILED: 08/24/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/963,514

Applicant(s)

BLAIZOT, CAROLINE

Examiner

Dalzd Singh

Art Unit

2633

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 June 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 2 and 5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3, 4, 6 and 7 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 03 June 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Beshai et al (US Patent No. 6,882,799).

Regarding claim 1, Beshai et al discloses multi-grained network for switching subnodes in wavelength division multiplex optical switching network, as shown in Fig. 2, which method includes the following steps:

(a) collecting information concerning how traffic is crossing the initial monoblock switching node (see Fig. 13 and col. 14, lines 45-67 to col. 15 lines 1-18);

(c) considering each subnode successively in an order corresponding to reducing switching constraints (see col. 11, lines 45-65 and col. 12, lines 25-54); and

(d) for each subnode, selecting all or part of the traffic of an incoming and an outgoing that satisfy the switching constraints of the subnode concerned (see col. 11, lines 25-67 to col. 13, lines 1-30).

Beshai et al differs from the claimed invention in that Beshai et al do not specifically disclose defining granularity and switching function of the subnodes to be detected. However, in col. 6, lines 16-60 and Fig. 2, Beshai et al disclose and show different granularities of the network. Therefore, since the switching network comprises

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of different granularities, it would have been obvious that the granularity and switching function is defined. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do such in order to provide best path for carrying certain load capacity and hence reduce or eliminate traffic constraints.

Regarding claim 2, as discussed above, Beshai et al disclose that the information collected in step (a) is information contained in the initial switching matrix of the monoblock node whose subnodes are to be detected (it would have been obvious that initial switching of the switch is detected in order to compare and optimize switching of the system).

3. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Beshai et al (US Patent No. 6,882,799) in view of Kirby (US Patent No. 6,647,208).

Regarding claim 5, Beshai et al disclose multi-grained network for switching subnodes, as discussed above, and differ from the claimed invention in that Beshai et al do not specifically disclose the following substeps:

(d1) marking all of the traffic of the incoming granularity as coming from the subnode concerned and all the traffic of the outgoing granularity as going to the subnode concerned;

(d2) marking the traffic that satisfies the switching constraints of the subnode concerned as belonging to that subnode; and

(d3) increasing the number of ports of the subnode concerned.

However, it is well known to mark traffic signal. Kirby et al shows such well known concept. In col. 3, lines col. 7, lines 38-61, Kirby uses tags (markings) for monitoring traffic flows from source to destination and for controlling the switch. Therefore, it would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill in the art to at the time the invention was made to implement such method, as disclosed by Kirby, to the system of Beshai et al. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this in order to detect traffic flow.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 3, 4, 6 and 7 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Beshai (US Patent No. 6,876,649) is cited to show high-capacity WDM-TDM packet switch.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dalzid Singh whose telephone number is (571) 272-3029. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 9am - 5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jason Chan can be reached on (571) 272--3022. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

DS
August 19, 2005

Dalzid Singh